

CHARLESTON.

Mr. Editor:—Permit me for once to make your paper the vehicle of conveying a few words to the good people of Wilmington. Within the last few days the Charleston papers have contained several articles on the subject of building a Rail Road from that city to the town of Wilmington. The object of all these communications is to arouse the people of Charleston from the lethargy in which the writers allege they have been plunged for some time back. It is urged that if the Rail is built from Wilmington to Charleston, that then Charleston will be cut off from the great Southern travel;—perfectly isolated as they say—and that the citizens of the "Queen City" ought not to permit this. These writers urge further, that if the Wilmington and Charleston Road is constructed, a large amount of produce, which of right ought to go to Wilmington. Now, for my own part, I see in all these articles additional arguments why we of Wilmington should not connect with Charleston, and why we should, on the other hand, connect with the South Carolina Rail Road at Charleston. What would we have to gain by a connection with the city of Charleston? Nothing that I can see. But these Charlestonians are making this parade now with a view of blinding the people of Wilmington, by inducing us to believe that if we will only give up the idea of building the Charleston Road, they, the Charlestonians, will come generously to our aid and ensure the connection by the lower route. Don't believe a word of it, people of Wilmington. We have long ago tried of what stuff the Charlestonians are made, and we well know that all our overtures were almost scornfully rejected by them. Let us not be driven from our true interests by these appeals upon the part of the people of Charleston. We have no earthly reason for carrying our road to that city. Nor do I believe, if we were this moment to abandon our present plan, that the people of Charleston would give us any substantial aid in constructing a road to that city.

NORTH CAROLINA.

DEAR SIR: I find in the Commercial a communication signed "Spectator," purporting to give an accurate account of the proceedings of the Democratic meeting held in this place on the 9th inst.; and also intimating that the report of them given by the officers of the meeting was not sufficiently full. Well I can safely say that the report was much fuller than is usually given on such occasions by the Secretaries, & I can further assure "Spectator" that in my estimation his friend, Mr. Bryan, was the gainer by its being more amplified. Who "Spectator" is I really do not know, but I should judge from the style that a certain gentleman, who would fain persuade the Democrats of this District that he is a great man, had something to do with its production. I would not think it worth while to notice the thing at all, were it not that it might lead some of the good people of Wilmington, who did not see the report of the proceedings of the meeting, to believe that it was incorrect. Now I was there, as well as "Spectator," and I can safely assert that that report was favorable, rather than otherwise, to the part which Mr. Bryan took in that meeting. I suppose the great charge against Mr. Hall is that he was not born a little sooner. He was too young, ten or twelve years ago, to take part in political matters. This, Mr. Bryan would seem to insinuate, is a crime. Well it may be so. It is the lot of great minds to make these great discoveries. I must ask your pardon, Mr. Editor, because I know it is not your wont to notice anything which appears in the paper in which "Spectator" writes.

ALSO A "SPECTATOR."

Mr. Editor:—I have noticed in your paper a systematic attempt to injure my political prospects to this end you represent public opinion all one way & that against me if this be so why make such ado about it, or do you know the contrary to be the fact, and seek to save your readers in this silly way, and get to change sides. If this is your game I can inform you that you understate the voters of the district, that such a weak attempt to impose on them will be spurned by all.

As the conductor of a public journal, your readers would no doubt rather see you pursue a more dispassionate course, and if I am so objectionable that you must have opposition in our ranks it will look more like fair play to let your candidate take care of his own interests. He will certainly be able to do it, and so weak as myself without a coalition of Editors & office holders to help him out, by the bye these combinations among men professing democratic principles, look rather awkward, and when formed to direct or manufacture public opinion generally, produces the contrary result in an intelligent community.

In your last paper, you state the people have already made their choice & if he be not attainable the people will prefer asking some one to serve them, to this I have only to reply, that I have been asked by men that act from principle, who have never shared any of the profits of office, but if you mean that I should ask you then to reply, then I question your supposed disinterestedness, but I think you have too short an acquaintance with our institutions, & have been too lately ingrafted into the party to set yourself up as an adviser, as the conductor of a democratic journal. I hope for the future you will be governed more by principle, and the laws of justice and let clicks take care of themselves.

Yours in haste

JAMES I. BRYAN

March 18 1847.

(The above communication is a faithful copy of the manuscript, and the proof was read by the author, and such corrections as he marked religiously made.—Pioneer Reader Journal.)

IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE HON. THOMAS H. BENTON AND THE PRESIDENT.

(COPY.)

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1847.

SIR: Please to receive, as a mark of my respect, a copy of the following letters, which explain the circumstances under which I decline to accept the appointment of major general in the army.

Respectfully sir, your obedient servant.

THOMAS H. BENTON.

To the Hon. Mr. Secretary of the U. S. Senate.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1847.

SIR: Without waiting for the formality of being presented with the commission of major general in the army of the United States, I think it right to inform you that I have declined, and refused, of that high honor, and I do so, not entirely upon public and national considerations, of which you, yourself, will be the judge. Personally, I can have no wish for this office; but if you believe that I can be of service to the country, I am willing to forego all private considerations—separate myself from my family, under painful circumstances; resign my place in the Senate, which is so dear to me—and proceed immediately to the theatre of war. My only stipulation would be for the powers which I deem necessary to suc-

cess; and these would be both military and diplomatic: the command of the army, and authority to sign preliminary orders of peace, based upon terms previously approved by you.

I beg you to believe, sir, that nothing selfish, or personal, dictates this proposed stipulation. There is no such thing in it. It proceeds from a thorough conviction that, with a subordinate command, I could do no good in the army; on the contrary, that my presence there would be improper and mischievous: for I am known, from my public speeches, to disapprove the plans, both of the late, and of the present commander—(the defensive policy of one, and the San Juan of Uta attack of the other)—and this being known, my presence would operate as an implied censure on the two generals, and might make me, in spite of myself, the nucleus of discontent and insubordination. The command of the army, therefore, is the only military position which I could hold in it.

As to the diplomatic part, I deem highly essential to success, as it would enable the commander-in-chief to take instant advantage of all passing events, military or political, to close the war.

Furnished with these powers, I am willing to make the sacrifices, and to incur the responsibilities of this high command; but I leave it to you, sir, for you are the final decision, considering it as a national question, and one on which there is no commitment, on either side, in anything that has passed.

Whatever may be the decision, my thanks and gratitude will not be the less to you for your unsolicited nomination of me to this high and important office, and for the interest and kind attention which you have bestowed upon me.

Respectfully, sir, your friend and fellow citizen,

THOMAS H. BENTON.

To the President.

WASHINGTON, March 9, 1847.

SIR: I have given to your letter of the 6th inst., the consideration which its importance demands. In tendering to you the appointment of major general in the army, I earnestly desired that you should have the advantage of your own counsel and ability, and military knowledge, which is so national a question, and one on which there is no commitment, on either side, in anything that has passed.

I am, sir, with high consideration, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

JAMES K. POLK.

To Major General Thomas H. Benton, Washington City.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday Evening, March 9, 1847.

SIR: Your letter of this day's date is just received; and seeing no reason for further reflection, and wishing to avoid all delay in reflecting the army, I have, and delayed the answer of acceptance, or non-acceptance, until I should receive an answer from the President to a note which I addressed to him in the morning of that day. That answer is now received, and enables me to answer your note, and to say, that the commission is not accepted.

Please to accept, sir, my thanks for the kind terms of your note, and for the thousand courtesies which you have extended to me in the course of our long and friendly acquaintance. Most truly and respectfully yours,

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distress—rodeado de miseria—the Government having provided no means for undertaking such a march. We have a frightful picture of the state of the troops before leaving San Luis. The San Juan's last acts before marching was to distribute two days' pay for the month of January. This could not sustain them more than a week, and the question was asked, "what shall we do when in front of the enemy?" The troops are represented as patient and loyal, but in pitiable state of distress. In derision, they speak of going forth to solve the problem of "fighting without eating."

The same paper which announces Santa Anna's arrival at Matuhuala, mentions that Gen. Taylor is fortifying Saltillo, and has with him 6000 troops and 16 pieces of artillery. This shows again the accuracy of the information possessed by the Mexicans of our movements.

From the same, 10th inst.

VERY LATE FROM MEXICO.

Return of Atchaca—His reception in Mexico—Passed Midshipman Rogers sent to Perote—Arrival of Volunteers at Anton Lizardo—More of Santa Anna and his plans—Later from Chihuahua—Further of the Battle of Brazito, &c. &c.

By the arrival of the U. S. revenue cutter Forward, Capt. Nones, a large mail was yesterday received from Anton Lizardo. Our own letters come down to the 26th of Feb., on which day a further prevailed which prevented the Forward from leaving before the 2d of March inst.

It appears that Santa Anna, whose arrival at Vera Cruz, with despatches, we announced yesterday, went over there on the Forward from this city direct. He reached there on the 9th ult., and proceeded immediately to Mexico. He returned from the capital on the 26th ult., and is now we presume, on his way to Washington. It is not supposed he has accomplished much by his mission. The Mexicans had personal objections to him, and his reception by the authorities of Vera Cruz, and the people of that Government of Mexico, was anything but cordial.

Our readers will learn with infinite pain that Passed Midshipman Rogers has been ordered to Perote, and that he is now confined in that gloomy prison.

Correspondent of the New Orleans Picayune.

U. S. SQUADRON, Feb. 17, 1847.

"The news that the army at San Luis is interesting, so far as we are assured that Santa Anna has left that city with the main body of his troops in the direction of Monterey, although the ultimate destination has been much speculated upon. His resources appear to have been of the most meagre kind. He was so destitute that he offered to pledge his private property to a loan of \$50,000, at the rate of two to three per cent. interest monthly. He said he was unable to negotiate a loan. He is also reported to have seized ninety-eight bars of silver, belonging to a Spanish merchant of San Luis, and coined it for the use of his army. This trifling relief enabled him to march towards Saltillo. A letter from San Luis, 30th January, says that the army has taken up its march with only twelve days' resources. The estimates of the two last months have been nearly all unpaid. Sickiness has been the consequence of privation. The medical officers report that the measles had appeared among the troops; that five hundred were sick—a number far beyond the accommodations of the hospitals. The disease is ascribed to the intensity of the cold and the nude state of the troops, who stretch themselves at night upon the bare wet pavements and huddle together for warmth."

"At Vera Cruz, the state of things is very much as it was when I last wrote. The authorities are busy in issuing proclamations announcing the threatened attack and issuing orders to the troops, among the most palpable of which is one forbidding the use of the guaqueo at the carnival. There are many, however, who regard the threatened invasion with incredulity. There are five thousand men in the city of Vera Cruz and one thousand in the Castle—three thousand of these belong to the National Guard and are tolerably well equipped and supplied with arms. The National Guard of the State is, on the contrary, not organized and is destitute of arms."

U. S. SQUADRON, Feb. 26, 1847.

Gentlemen:—The subject of Mr. Atchaca's despatches is discussed in the recent papers, but I have not yet seen or heard of any favorable allusion to it. The Vera Cruz papers state that our Government have proposed to Mexico an indemnity of twenty millions for the line of the 26th parallel from the mouth of the Rio del Norte to the Pacific. It is understood that Mr. Atchaca's remarks have confirmed this statement so far as this, that fifteen millions are offered for the above mentioned boundary line, and the balance, five millions, claims on Mexico, and assuming the indemnities due her citizens. There is a story that ten thousand men are to be kept on the frontier to prevent smuggling. These reports are regarded among us with a great deal of incredulity.

Personally, Santa Anna appears to have been the most unaccepting person we could find in Mexico. His reception at Vera Cruz was anything but flattering. He landed at Vera Cruz on the 6th (I believe) and reached the capital, according to the papers, on the 13th. The next day he was ordered to leave the capital for a hacienda near Jaapa, there to await the response of the Government. It is rumored that his proposals have been despatched to the President, and that he is now on his way to the capital.

Santa Anna was by the latest accounts, coming down to the 14th inst., from Guadalupe, still advancing towards Saltillo, and had reached Chihuahua. On the 12th, an extraordinary snow storm occurred at San Luis. We may expect melancholy accounts from the denuded Mexican army.

The people of Vera Cruz have turned out en masse to clear away the sand embankment against the walls of the city on the northern and western side, and to dig a ditch. The women and children were actively engaged in carrying away the sand.

It has been reported that Santa Anna has sent \$25,000 of his own funds to Vera Cruz to aid the garrison of that place.

The Spanish brig—, captured by the Albany, will probably be sent to New Orleans for adjudication. She is seized for informality in her papers, and for evading the warning of blockade. An enemy's schr. has become prize to the Vixen.

In this town, on the 12th inst., of consumption, Mr. Peter Dodge, of Sedgewick, Me, aged about 50.

In Cumberland county, on the 23d ult, Mr. Joshua Newell aged 59.

In Greenbrough, Feb 27th, of consumption, Mrs. Mary Morehead wife of Jas T. Morehead. Esq. In Anson county, on the 21st inst, Mrs. Susan Harris, sister of Rev Archibald H. is, aged about 80.

In Cumberland county, on the 27th ult, Mr. Archibald Black, in the 65th year of his age, also, on the 22d ult, Miss Margaret B. Black, sister of the above, in the 58th year of her age.

In Anson county, Alabama, after a few hours suffering from a fall from his horse, on the 11th ult, Dr. Angus G. Kelly, aged 34 years and 6 months, formerly of Cumberland county, N. C. In Autauga county, Ala. on the 21st inst, Mr. Archibald McKelhen, in the 75th year of his age, a native of Bladen county, N. C., but a resident of Alabama for the last 27 years.

In Hardram county, Tenn. on the 18th January, Mr. Asa C. Yopp, aged about 43 years. Mr. Y. was a native of Onslow county in this State, but for the last twelve years a resident of Hardram county. He was a kind father and an affectionate husband, and he has left a large circle of relatives and acquaintances to mourn his death. He was an exemplary member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and had been for fifteen years, and died in the hope of a blessed immortality.

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THE MARKETS.

WILMINGTON MARKET.—March 18.

NAVAL STORES.—Turpentine has been selling since our last review at an advance of 5 cents per barrel, clear of extra, till yesterday, when it changed hands at \$20, including extra; to-day we hear of no sales up to the time of making up our report. The article, however, is said to be dull at \$21.50, which brings it to quotations of this day week.

Spirits Turpentine.—There have been but two small sales that have come to our knowledge, which was country made, at 36c. Town makers are still asking 40c, without effect. Tar—Arrivals light and the demand is good! Last sales \$15.

LUMBER.—Sales for River Lumber are still dull. Last sales of Flooring Boards \$7.50, which is the highest rates. No change in Wide Boards or Scantling.

TIMBER.—There are some four or five rafts of inferior on the market. The primer rafts have all been sold. Our quotations will give the state of the market, from inferior to good.

BACON.—The Bacon market has become quiet bare, and owing to the light receipts the price has advanced a shade. The only receipt of moment since this day week is 15,000 lbs. per Rail Road, which is selling at 9 cts. hog round. We refer to our quotations for a fair state of the market prices.

WHITE BEANS.—None. Quotations nominal.

CORN.—This article is on the decline, for cargo; 75c. per bushel is asked, with no sales, but at the same time we hear that a sale has been effected to arrive, per Rail Road, at 80c. We quote at 75 a 80c.

MEAL.—Very scarce, and sells in lots to suit retailers, at 95c. to \$1.00.

SALT.—We are not aware of any receipt of Salt since last report.

FLOUR.—The supply is fair and prices firm.

HAY.—Sales of 80 bales Eastern at 75 a 80c.—also, part damaged, at 55 a 75c.

MOLASSES.—No arrivals since last report. The article is now held at 25 a 26c. We hear of a sale of 100 bbls. Cayenne, at terms which have not been made public.

LIME.—Received 400 casks, half of which sold at auction at 95c., and half at \$1.00 per cask.

RICE.—Sales of small parcels at \$3.75.—Held at \$4.00.

SHINGLES.—Are without change; receipts moderate, and sales dull.

STAVES.—W. O. Bbls.—reported sales at \$10 a \$11. R. O. Staves are nominally quoted at \$8 a \$15.

LIQUORS.—A sale of a small lot of N. O. Rectified Whiskey, at auction, at 31 1-2c. to 32 cts.

FREIGHTS.—Vessels are still waiting for both foreign and coastwise. Considerable reduction, however, has been experienced in freights to New York.

COPPER.—The market is dull, and has been without animation during the week, although sales of Rio to a moderate extent took place early at 23 to 24 cts. per lb. 6 months, and 25 cts. per lb. 12 months.

There were sales of Howard street at the close of the last